



countdown

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OSTM satellite joins 2001 spacecraft charting sea levels

◆ **ELV Update:** The NASA-French space agency oceanography satellite OSTM-Jason-2 launched Friday at 3:46 a.m. EDT from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on a globe-circling voyage to continue charting sea levels, a vital indicator of global climate change. The mission will return a vast amount of new data that will improve weather, climate and ocean forecasts.

Fifty-five minutes after launch, OSTM/Jason-2 separated from the rocket's second stage, and then opened its twin sets of solar arrays. Ground controllers successfully acquired the spacecraft's signals. Initial telemetry reports showed it to be in excellent health.

OSTM/Jason-2 entered orbit about six to nine miles below Jason-1, which was launched in 2001. The new spacecraft will gradually use its thrusters to raise itself into the same 830-mile orbital altitude as Jason-1 and position itself about 60 seconds behind Jason-1's ground track. The two spacecraft will fly in formation, making nearly simultaneous measurements for about six months to allow scientists to precisely calibrate OSTM/Jason 2's instruments.

Once cross-calibration is complete, Jason-1 will alter course, adjusting its orbit so that its ground tracks fall midway

between those of OSTM/Jason-2. Together, the two spacecraft will double global coverage. This tandem mission will improve our knowledge of tides in coastal and shallow seas and internal tides in the open ocean, while improving our understanding of ocean currents and eddies.

Measurements of sea-surface height, or ocean surface topography, reveal the speed and direction of ocean currents and tell scientists how much of the sun's energy is stored by the ocean.

◆ **ISS Update:** Expedition 17 Flight Engineer Greg Chamitoff, who arrived at the International Space Station with the STS-124 mission in June, filled out his second food frequency questionnaire on the Medical Equipment Computer, or MEC last week. On the questionnaire, NASA astronauts keep a personalized log of their nutritional intake over time on special MEC software.

The questionnaire is completed once a week to estimate nutrient intake from the previous week and to give recommendations to ground specialists who help maintain optimal crew health. The questionnaire records the amounts of such food items as beverages, cereals, grains, eggs, breads, snacks, sweets, fruit, beans, soup, vegetables, dairy, fish, meat, chicken, sauces/spreads, and vitamins.

Weekly estimation has been verified to be reliable enough that nutrients do not need to be tracked daily.

■ **Education Expo at KSC June 27** — ASRC is sponsoring an Education Expo from noon to 2 p.m. Friday in the O&C Mission Briefing Room. The event

Space station crew member charts diet for ongoing health

will host more than 20 universities and is open to all NASA and contractor employees. The schools include Webster University, University of Miami, University of Florida, Florida Institute of Technology, Strayer University, University of Central Florida, DeVry University, Rollins College, Walden University, Embry-Riddle University, Stetson University, Nova Southeastern University, Brevard Community College, Palm Beach Atlantic, Columbia University, University of Phoenix, and others.

You can gather current information regarding bachelor's and master's level continuing education and professional development opportunities for on-campus, distance learning or on-line degree or certificate offerings. Drop by to talk with representatives about educational opportunities, curriculum and new courses/programs for 2008.

■ **NASA Game is Educational** — In celebration of its 50th anniversary, NASA has created an educational card game, "You've Been Sentenced! - NASA 50th Anniversary Special Edition." NASA and McNeill Designs for Brighter Minds formed a partnership in April 2008 to create the game, which bears a few similarities to Scrabble™.

For additional information, visit: <http://www.mcneilbrighterminds.com>.

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